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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Burkina Faso in December 2009 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Burkina Faso (December 2009)

During the presidency of Burkina Faso in December 2009, the Security Council had an extensive programme of work. It discussed and took action on the developments in Somalia, the Sudan, Cyprus, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, the Middle East, Iraq and Guinea. The Council held 27 formal meetings, including 9 public meetings, of which one was an open debate on drug trafficking as a threat to international security. It also held three private meetings with troop-contributing countries and 15 closed consultations of the whole. The Council adopted 10 resolutions and 5 presidential statements. The President also read out three statements to the press.

Africa

Somalia

On 3 December, the Council met in consultations following the terrorist attack that occurred on the same day in Mogadishu during a graduation ceremony for Somali medical students at Benadir University, which killed civilians and the Somali Ministers of Health, Higher Education and Education. The Council members expressed their concerns and condemned the attack. After the consultations, Council members adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/31) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack and expressing their condolences and sympathy to the victims' families, to the Transitional Federal Government and to the people of Somalia. Members of the Council also reaffirmed their full support for the Djibouti peace process and invited the opposition groups to renounce violence and join the reconciliation efforts. The members of the Council also reiterated their support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and expressed their appreciation to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their troop contributions.

Sudan

On 4 December, at a formal meeting, the Council heard a briefing from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, who introduced his tenth report pursuant to Security Council resolution 1593 (2005). The members of the Council noted that since 2005 three cases had been initiated by the Court in connection with the situation in Darfur. They expressed their concern regarding the deterioration of the situation in Darfur. While some members expressed their support for the warrant against President Omar Al-Bashir of the Sudan, others thought that, even if the Security Council had to fight against impunity, it should also take into account the political progress made towards a settlement of the conflict in Darfur. Those members urged the Council to adjourn the said warrant in accordance with article 16 of the Rome Statute, as requested by the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.

On 7 December, a statement to the press was read out by the President of the Security Council, condemning the attacks of 4 and 5 December on peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which resulted in the death of five Rwandan soldiers, and expressing condolences to the families as well as to the Government of Rwanda. They encouraged the Government of the Sudan to investigate and to ensure that the perpetrators were identified and brought to justice. They also reiterated their full support to UNAMID.

On 21 December, the Council held a formal meeting followed by a private debate, to discuss the report of the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur (see S/2009/599). The head of the Panel, Thabo Mbeki, and the President of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, briefed the Council on this occasion. A statement to the press was read out after the debate by the President of the Council, in which the members of the Council welcomed the report and the balanced recommendations therein, and agreed with the report that the causes and consequences of the conflict in Darfur had yet to be addressed. They also reiterated their support for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and UNAMID, and for the efforts of the joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, to promote a lasting political settlement for Darfur. They called on the Government of the Sudan and other parties in the Sudan and in the region to fully cooperate with President Mbeki and his team.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 7 December, the Council held consultations on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Leroy, briefed the Council on the situation in the country, after the postponement of the first round of the presidential election, scheduled for 29 November 2009. According to the Under-Secretary-General, that decision was due to technical and financial constraints. Nevertheless, he noted positive steps taken by the Ivorian political actors, in particular the publication of the provisional voters list. The members of the Council took note of the postponement of the first round of the presidential election and welcomed the communiqué of 3 December 2009 of the Permanent Consultative Framework, according to which the election would be organized by the end of February or the beginning of March 2010. The members of the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/33) on 8 December, in which the Council commended the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, for his efforts to support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the signature on 17 November 2009 by President Laurent Gbagbo of several military rules and regulations, including seven decrees, and urged the Ivorian actors to address the remaining tasks for the organization of open, free, fair and transparent elections. It also recalled that it will review the mandate and the troop level of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire by 31 January 2010, and requested the Secretary-General to provide it with a report in this regard.

Burundi

On 10 December, at a formal meeting, the Council heard a briefing from the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), Youssef Mahmoud, on the situation in Burundi, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/611). During the closed consultations that followed, Council members welcomed the progress made in the peace process, due to the implementation by the Government of

Burundi of the Permanent Forum for Dialogue between agreed political parties. They also welcomed the agreement reached by the parties to adopt a revised electoral code and the beginning in July 2009 of the talks on a transitional justice mechanism. They commended BINUB and the Peacebuilding Commission for supporting the Government of Burundi in its efforts. Finally, they supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of BINUB for one more year. On 17 December the Council adopted resolution 1902 (2009) in this regard.

Central African Republic

On 15 December, at a formal meeting, the Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), Sahle-Work Zewde, on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/627) on the situation in that country. The Council members then met in informal consultations where they commended the efforts made by BONUCA as well as the country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission in supporting the Government to consolidate peace, enhance governance and complete the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. They welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, which would replace BONUCA on 1 January 2010. They urged the Government to take all necessary measures to ensure the free, fair and transparent preparation and conduct of the 2010 elections. The members of the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/35) on 21 December in this regard.

Liberia

On 15 December, the members of the Council held consultations to consider the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia. The Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Mohamed Shalgham of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, briefed the Council on the Committee's recent work, in particular its consideration of the final report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. The members of the Council took note of the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia dated 11 December 2009. They commended the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the Government of Liberia for its efforts to meet the conditions of resolution 1521 (2003). They also considered the extension for one more year of the sanctions measures and the mandate of the Group of Experts. On 17 December, the Council adopted resolution 1903 (2009) accordingly.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 10 December the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), during which they interacted in a videoconference format with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss.

On 16 December, at a formal meeting, the Special Representative also briefed the Council on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During the consultations that followed, the members of the Council took note of the thirtieth report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/623) and noted that the situation in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo was still a threat to international security in the region. They condemned the targeted attacks and the widespread sexual violence against the civilian population, as well as the recruitment and use of child soldiers perpetrated by illegal armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Lord's Resistance Army. They requested MONUC to continue working closely with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and coordinating operations with the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the eastern part of the country to protect civilians and help the Government to restore its authority in that area. The members of the Council also called upon the States of the Great Lakes region to coordinate their efforts in addressing the threat to the regional security.

On 23 December, the Council adopted resolution 1906 (2009), by which it extended the mandate of MONUC until 31 May 2010.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 21 December, at the request of one delegation, the Council held informal consultations on the situation in Guinea. The Officer-in-Charge of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Sam Ibok, briefed the Council on this occasion. The members of the Council reiterated their concern about the killing of civilians that occurred in Conakry on 28 September 2009 and expressed their readiness to revert to the issue when the report of the Commission of Inquiry led by Mohammed Bedjaoui was issued.

On 23 December, at the request of one delegation, the members of the Council met again in consultations on the same issue. They took note of the issuance of the report, but could not consider it before it was translated into all official United Nations languages and before receiving instructions from their capitals.

Peace and security in Africa

On 23 December, the Council adopted resolution 1907 (2009), on the situation in Somalia and on the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea, in which the Council noted that the refusal of Eritrea to withdraw its forces to the status quo ante and to engage in dialogue with Djibouti or to accept bilateral contacts, mediation or facilitation and its non-compliance with the Djibouti peace process constituted a threat to international peace and security. The Council imposed upon Eritrea an arms embargo and some individual sanctions.

Middle East

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 7 December, the Council held a private meeting with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), at which participants were briefed about the developments relevant to the mandate of the Force.

On 14 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/597) and was briefed on this occasion by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the activities of UNDOF from 1 July to 31 December 2009. According to the Assistant

Secretary-General, the situation had remained calm and both parties, Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, had continued to respect the ceasefire. He noted that both parties continued to cooperate with the Force. On 16 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1899 (2009), extending the mandate of UNDOF until 30 June 2010, with an accompanying presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/34).

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 17 December, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, from the Special Coordinator for the Middle East peace process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert H. Serry. He said that negotiations had yet to resume between the two parties and confidence between the parties remained low. He noted the announcement by the Government of Israel that it would restrain certain settlement activity for a period of 10 months, and the decision of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization to extend the terms of the Palestinian Authority presidency and the Palestinian Legislative Council, until elections could be held. He referred to the readiness of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to continue to serve until elections are held. One member of the Council took the floor in the Council Chamber. During the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members called on the two parties to resume negotiations. A number of members expressed their concern about the situation in Gaza and called for the full implementation of resolution 1860 (2009). Some Council members reiterated the importance of implementing resolution 1701 (2006). Some members also called upon Israel to freeze all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Iraq: Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board

On 17 December, the Council held informal consultations and received a briefing from the Controller, Jun Yamazaki, on the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. According to the Controller, the Government of Iraq has created a time-bound action plan to implement comprehensive oil metering which should improve transparency. The members of the Council expressed the need for increased transparency and accountability in the current and future successor Fund. On 21 December, the Council adopted resolution 1905 (2009).

Europe

Cyprus

On 9 December, the Council held informal consultations to consider the Secretary-General's reports on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (S/2009/609) and on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2009/610). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cyprus, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Cyprus, Alexander Downer, briefed the Council on this occasion. The members of the Council noted that the situation on the ground had remained calm and that substantive progress had been made by the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot leaders in fully fledged negotiations. The members of the Council welcomed the

implementation of some confidence-building measures announced by the two leaders and urged them to implement the remaining measures in order to build trust between the communities. They commended UNFICYP and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for their efforts to assist the parties in conducting fully fledged negotiations in order to reach a comprehensive settlement of the dispute.

On 14 December, the Council adopted, unanimously, resolution 1898 (2009), calling on both parties to engage fully in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone, with the view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues. It also called on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo, prior to 30 June 2008. It decided to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for six more months, until 15 June 2010.

General issues

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 3 December, the Council held a debate to consider the annual reports (S/2009/394 and S/2009/296) of the two Tribunals and their assessments on the implementation of the completion strategy (S/2009/589 and S/2009/587). The reports were presented by Judge Patrick Robinson, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and Judge Dennis Byron, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, assisted respectively by the Prosecutors, Serge Brammertz and Hassan Jallow.

The members of the Council noted that the two Tribunals were not in a position to complete their work in 2010 as recommended by the Council in resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004).

On 16 December, the Council adopted resolutions 1900 (2009) and 1901 (2009), in which it underlined its intention to extend, by 30 June 2010, the terms of office of all trial judges at both International Tribunals based on the Tribunals' projected trial schedule, and the terms of office of appeal judges until 31 December 2012, or until the completion of the cases to which they are assigned, if sooner.

Peace and security in Africa: drug trafficking as a threat to international security

On 8 December, the Council, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Alain Bedouma Yoda, held an open debate on the theme "Peace and security in Africa: drug trafficking as a threat to international security" on the basis of a concept paper submitted earlier by the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso (S/2009/615).

Addressing the Council on this occasion, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, the Commissioner for Human Development and Gender of the Economic Community of West African States, Adrienne Yande Diop, and 18 delegations stressed with concern the threats to international security caused by drug trafficking and other transnational organized crime in many regions, including in Africa, and the increasing link between drug trafficking and the financing of terrorism. They also underlined the necessity of strengthening transregional and international cooperation as well as the coordination of United Nations actions, including

cooperation with INTERPOL, in order to fight against this threat at the national, regional and international levels.

They commended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its important work in this regard and called on all States to comply with their obligations to combat drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime and to subscribe to the existing relevant international conventions, in particular the three United Nations drug conventions, and to implement them. At the close of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/32).

Subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 14 December, at a formal meeting, the Council heard briefings by the following five outgoing members on the activities of its subsidiary bodies:

- Ambassador Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam), Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone
- Ambassador Ranko Vilovic (Croatia), Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism
- Ambassador Michel Kafando (Burkina Faso), Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) concerning Iraq
- Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia
- Ambassador Jorge Urbina (Costa Rica), Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning non-proliferation.

Counter-Terrorism Committee and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

On 14 December, in informal consultations, the members of the Council exchanged views on the report on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The Council was briefed by Ambassador Ranko Vilovic (Croatia), Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and by Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The members of the Council commended the Executive Directorate for its visit on the ground and for its efforts in assisting States, in particular the West African States which are facing the Al-Qaida threat. They noted the engagement of those countries in providing all information and in coordinating their activities to fight against terrorism. The members of the Council urged the Executive Directorate to continue its efforts to find partners to support individually or collectively the above-mentioned countries in order to help them to improve border surveillance as well as arms and explosives control.